

Serving the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities

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Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Firefighter George Pritchard (front left), Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Fire and Rescue, wipes sweat from his brow after emerg-
ing from the pile of debris that was once a lumber truck at the fatal train wreck Tuesday.

1 killed, dozens more injured in train wreck

Sgt. Sam Hoffman
Staff Writer

Fort Stewart emergency services responded to the fatal train wreck Tuesday, where Amtrak's Silver Star, train 91, collided with a lum-
ber truck at a railroad crossing near Georgia Highway 84.

"We got the call on mutual aid," said Assistant Chief Ronald Sharp, Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Fire and Rescue, "It was such a large situation that they called everyone in the area."

Fort Stewart's hazardous materi-
al response team helped control

hundreds of gallons of fuel spills
from the engine and ruptured fuel
cells, he said.

"It was more or less a HAZMAT
response from us."

Also called to assist in aiding

casualties was the Fort Stewart
Emergency Medical Services.
Emergency Medical Technicians
and Military Police were on site,
ready to do whatever was needed in
order to ensure smooth evacuation

"We would've not been able to have
such a quick control of the accident if
it were not for the Fort Stewart orga-
nizations that assisted,"

Clifford Black
Amtrak spokesperson

and control of the investigation
scene.

"We just came to see if they
needed assistance," said Sgt.
Harold Roxburgh, traffic incident
investigator.

According to an Amtrak press
release, 150 passengers and 14
crewmembers were on board when
the accident occurred at approxi-
mately 7:18 a.m. derailling the ten-
car train. It remained upright
despite the collision.

Police and fire officials confirmed

See TRAIN, Page 15A

Ammunition discovered in Iraqi school

SPC. Adam Nuelken
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry
Division (Mech.) began clearing out ammunition from
the Al Ibtahal school in Iraq.

The school that is only about five kilometers from
Baghdad International Airport stored tons of anti-air-
craft rounds as well as artillery shells.

"If we came in here everyday, we'd have at least a
week's worth of work," said Sgt. 1st Class Ramon
Kumar, platoon sergeant for the 59th Chemical
Company, and Cleveland, Ohio native.

The unit had four HEMTTs with trailers carrying
munitions from the school, but after a second walk-
through, the soldiers discovered there was a lot more
work to be done.

The 10 classrooms still had floors covered with
cases holding 14.5 millimeter anti-aircraft munitions,
and in the back of the school, piles of artillery shells
remained.

Task Force 1-39 Field Artillery (Multiple Launch

See AMMO, Page 15A

MOC readys for redeployments

Pfc. Andrew Hillegass
107th MPAD

With the war in Iraq officially over, Americans are
starting to wonder when the troops will be coming
home. And while the nation still does not know for cer-
tain when its soldiers will be returning from overseas
that hasn't stopped Fort Stewart from starting to pre-
pare for them.

The Mobilization Operations Center here is getting
prepared to start processing troops to send home as
soon as possible.

During the build up to the war the MOC was respon-
sible for the mobilization and training of approxima-
tely 20,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists from
around the country.

See MOC, Page 15A

4/64th aids orphans

SpC. Mason T. Lowery
50th PAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq —
Tusker soldiers brought
paint, cleaning supplies and
happiness to Baghdad
orphans Sunday as part of
the 3rd Infantry Division
(Mechanized) effort to help
put the city back together.

The orphanage is in the A
Company, 4th Battalion,
64th Armor soldiers' area of
operation, and they are tak-
ing the time to help the chil-
dren as much as they can by
cleaning up unexploded or-
nance and trash, painting
playground equipment, and
providing security.

The children's eyes lit up
when they saw the soldiers.
They knew enough English
to say, "Thank you," and "I
love you."

They crowded around the
soldiers; some shaking their
hands while others just
stared in awe. It was proba-

bly one of the first times the
neighboring children with
parents envied the orphans,
as they climbed on the gates
and tried to sneak in to
receive some of the soldiers'
attention.

The soldiers got as much
out of it as the orphans did.
They played with the chil-
dren as much as, if not more
than, they worked, which
was just as important.

"All the kids embrace us.
They say 'Good Mister!
Good Mister!' Seeing these
kids is like seeing my own,"
said Sgt. Edwin Leon from
Coamo, Puerto Rico.

While the soldiers were
cleaning and playing with
the children, their command-
er, Capt. Phil Wolford from
Marysville, Ohio, met with
the Childhood Orphanage
Manager Bayan Hasan Ali.

Ali stays with the 50 chil-
dren at night, so the Tuskers
protection helps guard
against looters, she said.

The children had plenty
of food, provided by the
Islamic Relief Agency, but
they needed electricity, and
protection is the most impor-
tant thing, Ali said. Wolford
told her the patrols would
continue and a generator had
been located and would be
delivered as soon as it was
repaired. She thanked
Wolford and said she appre-
ciates the soldiers' protec-
tion.

Pvt. First Class Jesse
Curtis, from Hinesville, Ga.,
painted the most playground
equipment.

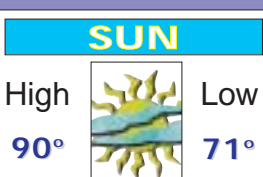
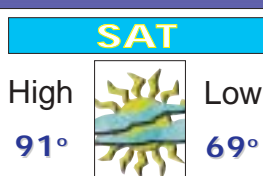
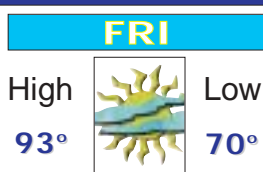
He didn't just paint the
swings one color, but painted
them in a rainbow motif,
even mixing paints to create
new colors.

"I kind of feel sorry for
them. We ought to be able to
help them. There's no rea-
son a little kid should run
across a UXO. So we're
cleaning up and also looking
for (UXOs)."



SpC. Mason T. Lowery

Pfc. Jesse Curtis, an A Co., 4/64 soldier, spends time with an orphan at the
Childhood Orphanage May 4 in Baghdad.





Photos by Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Staff. Sgt. Donald Homes salutes the flag as retreat is being played and the colors are being retired at the end of the memorial ceremony. After the ceremony, family members were given an opportunity to see the living memorial upclose and pay their respects to their fallen loved ones.

Stewart honors fallen soldiers

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Staff Writer

"Forever more, these soldiers will be remembered and most of all they will always be here, marching in every formation on the field of honor. They will be in attendance at our most important events. They will not be forgotten," said Col. Gerald J. Poltorak, during a memorial ceremony, to honor 34 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers killed in action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The installation commander addressed more than 3,000 family members, soldiers and friends of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) during the ceremony April 30.

"These soldiers like many before them in this most storied Army division have added with their fellow soldiers of today's Marne division a proud chapter to the division and Army's history," Poltorak said.

"Today, we solemnly read their names; an honor roll of courageous warriors who gave there all to their

country, unit, and fellow soldiers," Poltorak said. "We will honor them with a living tribute of their great sacrifice."

Thirty-four Eastern Red Bud trees, native to this region, were planted with a granite marker in front of each tree with the soldier's rank, name and Iraqi Freedom engraved on it.

The trees will bloom annually in the late spring, which is about the same time Iraqi Freedom was ongoing.

The trees were planted in two rows on the edge of Cottrell Field and will know be known as Warriors Walk.

"Through the years the 'Rock of the Marne' division has paid a heavy price, more than 35,000 casualties in five wars and many battles since it's formation at Camp Green, N.C., in 1917," he said.

The soldiers of the Marne Division were prepared when called to deploy to Kuwait, Poltorak said.

In January, the division moved in weeks to the Middle East and await-

ed orders, he said. More than a month ago the division struck into the heart of Iraq, straight to the capital, Baghdad, fighting its way in the tough conditions, through the Iraqi Army, Republican Guard, Fedayeen fighters and anyone else who stood in its way in little more than 23 days.

"While, the Marne Division encountered tens of thousands of enemy fighters, it left thousands of them dead, and thousand more were wounded and captured. Thirty-four of our soldiers died and 87 were wounded," Poltorak continued.

During the ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Carl T. Smith, installation command sergeant major, read the names of the 34 soldiers.

After each name, a soldier guarding the marker removed a veil of courage, made of desert camouflage material with the soldier's rank and 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) patch sewn on it.

"Those killed and injured were from units throughout the division. headquarters units and line units,

infantry, combat engineer, aviation, field artillery, and support units," Poltorak said.

"They were young troopers and old soldiers, private to captain to chief warrant officer 4," he said.

"Single soldiers and married soldiers, some with large families and some with small, died and were wounded for their country and its values. They fought for their units and most of all for the soldiers standing next to them," Poltorak said.

The ceremony ended with retreat after which, the family members were given a chance to go and see Warriors Walk.

The memorial is a chilling reminder that freedom is not free, said Sonny Perdue, governor of Georgia. The ceremony was very respectful and extremely reverent.

Sgt. Eugene Williams' family was one of the many families that attended the ceremony. The non-commissioned officer would have been 25 years old the day of the ceremony.

"They did a beautiful job with today's ceremony," said Ulyses Williams, father of Sgt. Eugene Williams.

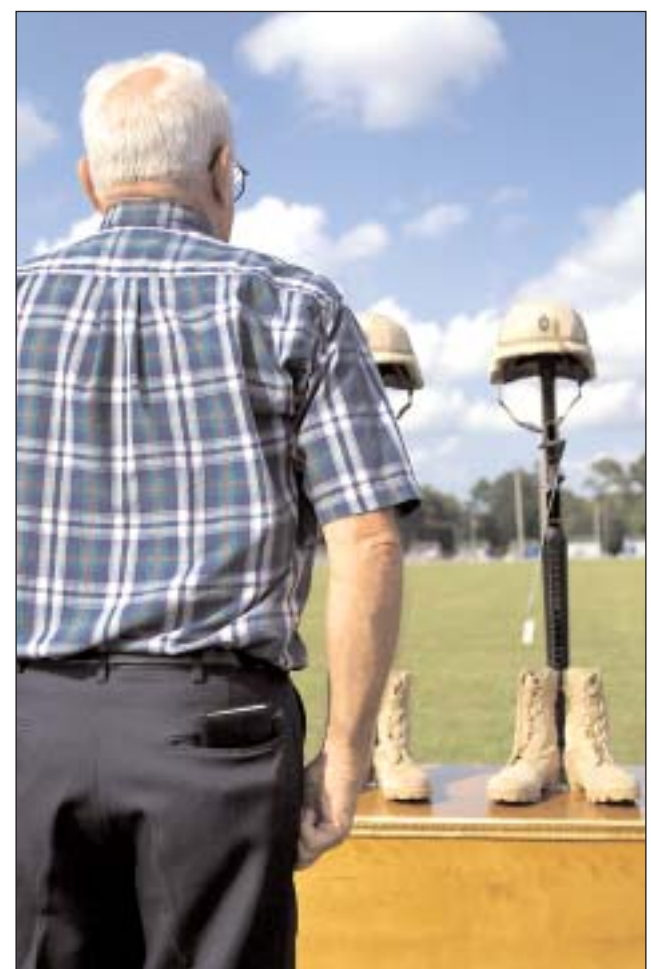
"Some day his wife and daughters can come and see how the trees have grown," he said. "My son did a wonderful job over there, but it is hard to lose a son. I know my son did not die for nothing — he died a hero," he said.

Warriors Walk will be completed very soon by friends of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) and Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Poltorak said.

"We thank our friends for this tribute and this wonderful reminder of their great sacrifice, and that each and everyday our fallen brothers are with us," he said. "To all of their families, wives, children, others, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends and relations, on behalf of a grateful Army and nation our heartfelt gratitude goes out to each for your sacrifice, for the Marne Division, their fellow soldiers and this great country, the United States of America."



A soldiers' memorial set up to help honor the troops killed in action during the memorial ceremony. Each display included a pair of desert jungle boots, an M-16 rifle, a kevlar helmet with desert cover, and a pair of the soldiers' identification tags.



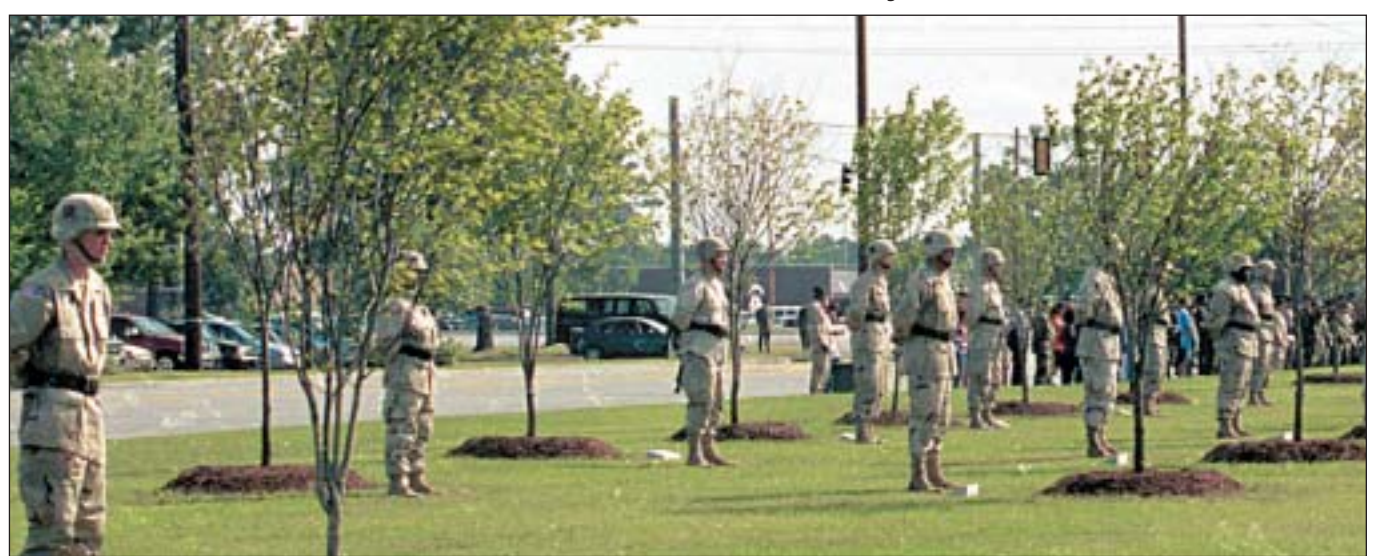
Pfc. Andrew Hillegass

Bill Haldeman, retired veteran, pays his respect to fallen soldiers of the 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) after the memorial service held on Wednesday.



Staff Sgt. Carmen Maldonado

Pfc. Jason Meyer's identification tags flutter in the wind while hanging from an M-16 rifle.



Soldiers stand next to the Eastern Red Bud trees planted to create a living memorial during the ceremony. Thirty-four trees were planted with a granite marker to represent each of the soldiers.

Kevlar-clad crowd congratulated by Chief

Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq, — The crowd wore Kevlar as Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld thanked the soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors of the coalition land forces during a town hall meeting at the international airport here April 30.

“I want to thank each and every one of you for your courage, your dedication to duty and for volunteering — stepping up to serve your country,” he said.

In a hangar at what was once the showcase airport for Saddam Hussein, Rumsfeld told the service members that they had rescued a nation and freed a people.

The airport, now the headquarters of the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga., is now a bustling coal-

tion home port. Transport aircraft and helicopters operate from the field even as engineers fill in the bomb craters in the runways.

Division commander Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount told reporters that there are still security challenges in Baghdad. He said division soldiers are seeking out the remnants of death squads.

Blunt observed that foreign fighters who came into Iraq to fight against the Americans have been taught a lesson. He does not think many foreign fighters are left in the country, but U.S. service members will remain vigilant.

Earlier in the day, Rumsfeld called on the Iraqi people to help the coalition find what’s left of the former regime’s leadership. He also called on Iraqis to help coalition forces by identifying

foreign fighters “who are working only for their own interests.”

Coalition forces are working to make Iraq a safe place. “You have braved death squads and sandstorms,” he told the troops.

“You raced across hundreds of miles to reach Baghdad in less than a month ... some people call that a quagmire. It was probably the fastest march on an enemy capital in modern military history.”

The coalition came not to conquer Iraq, not to occupy the country, but to liberate it, he said, and the Iraqi people realize it. “When you arrived in Baghdad, many of the Iraqi people came into the street to welcome you, tearing down statues of Saddam Hussein and celebrating their new found freedom — freedom that you helped them realize.

“You have unleashed events that will unquestionably shape the course of this country and the fate of its people and very likely the future of this entire region.”

Rumsfeld told the service members they should take great pride in their accomplishment. “You’ve done it well, while your adversary did everything in his power to put civilian lives at risk,” he said. “You took such great care to protect the lives of innocent civilians. In a real sense, many of the Iraqi people were hostages to that regime.

“We want the Iraqi people to live in freedom so they can build a future — where Iraqi leaders answer to the Iraqi people, instead of killing them. And because of you, they will have a chance to do that.”

“American Spirit” honored at ceremony

Spc. Casandra Bolton
Staff Writer, 372nd MPAD

“Celebrate Volunteers, The American Spirit” was the theme for this years Commanding General’s Installation Volunteers of the Year award ceremony. The ceremony was held April 29 at Club Stewart.

The ceremony was held to recognize the hard work that the volunteers, both civilian and military, put in to help soldiers and their families.

There were two categories in which people won the high honor of Volunteer of the Installation. The categories are Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the year. The winners of these awards put in a lot of hours. There were two winners from Stewart and two from Hunter Army Airfield.

During the ceremony Col. Gerald Poltorak, installation commander, received a check from Linda Heifferon, director of Army Community Service. The

check was a paycheck for all of the hours the volunteers had put forward and the amount of money that the volunteers have saved the installation.

When the winners went up to collect their prizes and certificates, loved ones and family members clapped with enthusiasm.

Brad Stanley, a senior with Hunter Benedicteen Military School, won the Youth Volunteer of the Year.

“When I found out that I had to complete 70 hours of community service to graduate from Benedicteen, my mother told me about volunteering with the ACS,” said Stanley.

“I chose to be a tutor,” said Stanley. “It feels good to be able to do that.”

There were 41 volunteers nominated, each of the nominees received a Certificate of Achievement for their hard work and dedication.

Nine people received the Commander’s Certificate. They were from Stewart as

well as Hunter Army Air Field. A total of six people received the Volunteers of Merit, Installation Youth Volunteers of the Year and Installation Volunteers of the Year.

As a part of their gifts the volunteers received different products and prizes from the many sponsors that helped make this ceremony possible.

“This ceremony would not be possible without our sponsors,” said Floyd Kee III, commercial sponsorship for Morale Welfare and Recreation. “They donate so much into making this a success.”

The volunteers all came up and signed the check for Poltorak. Hugs were exchanged as well as words of congratulations and praise. Before returning back to their busy schedules all of the people in attendance stood and sang “Dog Face Soldier” and “The Army Song,” to show their patriotism

Spartan soldiers save animals

Spc. Mason T. Lowery
50th PAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The D Company “Dogs” have been taking care of lions, tigers and bears caught in the crossfire in Baghdad and are turning control back over to Iraqi workers.

Soldiers with 2nd Platoon, D Company, 10th Engineer Battalion fought their way into an amusement park during the first few days of the Baghdad battle and were entrusted with the care of the park’s zoo animals, according to Platoon Leader 1st Lt. Brian Szydluk from Denton, Texas.

The “Dogs” were attached to Task Force 1-64. The task force was concerned with the animals’ safety and didn’t want to fight near them. But the enemy made it impossible not

to, and the Dog soldiers had to do a covert breach of the forward line in the park, according to Szydluk. They endured 48 hours of enemy fire, trying to survive and occupy.

When the bullets stopped, the soldiers emerged from the smoke to find the animals frightened, hungry, wounded, killed and loose. They also found 40 tons of enemy ammunition and equipment, and bunkers, which they spent three days blowing up and closing, Szydluk said.

Many cages were damaged, so they repaired them as best they could and herded the animals back in. Saddam Hussein’s son, Udai, had several lions at his palace, and they were brought to the zoo too. The soldiers fed the meat-eating animals the animals that

See ZOO, Page 5A



Sgt. Igor PaustovskiS

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld attended a town hall meeting with U.S. and coalition troops at Baghdad International Airport on April 30. Rumsfeld thanked the troops and told them they had rescued a nation and freed a people

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

CG talks reunion after deployment

Maj. Gen. Buford C. Blount III
3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army
Airfield commanding general

As you may have seen on the evening news, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld made a trip to Iraq, where he spoke to soldiers including many from the 3rd Infantry Division. He met with a small group of Silver Star nominees, and later spoke to a large assembly. He praised the division for their historic accomplishment, and thanked the soldiers for their service, and he thanked the families for their support. He then took questions, but started out by saying he would take no questions about when units would be redeploying.

I wish I could answer your questions about exactly when your Marne soldier is returning, but that is not yet determined. The timing is not yet clear and we have received no redeployment order yet. As forces continue to flow into Iraq, some will be earmarked to replace the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.). We will conduct a relief in place with a division moving in from Kuwait, and at some point will receive direction to redeploy.

What I can provide for you to ease some of the unknown and anxiety is an understanding of how 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) will redeploy and what you can expect when your soldier returns. It took us a long time to deploy into Iraq. It will not be an instantaneous process coming out either.

Redeployment will be done through Kuwait. On our trip south we will use paved highways that will make the trip quicker than our attack to Baghdad through the desert. We are arranging to have all track vehicles returned to Kuwait on tractor-trailers. Once in Kuwait, we will empty vehicles of personal gear, ammo, food, water, and any radios or other gear we brought from home. Soldiers will wash vehicles thoroughly, return the equipment we drew from Kuwait, and clear hand receipts. U.S. Customs will conduct inspections and agriculture checks on our own equipment which will be packed in milvans and shipped to Savannah.

The Army is working to make this process as expeditious as possible. We will work nearly around the clock to get troops out as quickly as possible. The soldiers will have access to showers and hot chow during turn in, but will probably be exhausted when they get back to you.

Our intent is to try to get back first those who have been deployed the longest, but it may not always work that way. Now that we are doing our post-war security and support operations, some units are not being fully utilized. We may pull these units out early, and some soldiers will be returning early on an individual basis to participate in career development education.

Once back, soldiers will have

Commentary reduced hours and

some long week-ends while they get personal gear cleaned up that they carried with them. When the entire division gets back, we will take division block leave which will be scheduled when the redeployment



timeline is set. Also, Marne soldiers may participate in some recognition parades and ceremonies to honor their accomplishments.

Reunion after deployment and heavy conflict takes some thought and preparation. Both the soldier and spouse have been through emotional turmoil and have changed in many ways. Understanding will be needed on both sides. The Army has great programs for helping with this understanding.

Marne soldiers will go through mandatory reunion briefings before redeploying to assist them with readjustment.

Your soldiers have performed magnificently and many, many are being formally recognized for their efforts and heroism. We all look forward to returning to our families and communities to get less formal — but much more desired — recognition. It should not take too very much longer before the process begins.

Journalist relays experiences of Iraq

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Seeing television, newspaper and magazine images of Saddam's palaces is one thing. Seeing them in real life is something else.

You can't get a feel for the scale of these edifices any other way.

The Abu Gharib palace, where the Coalition Land Forces Command is located, is called the Water Palace in some circles. Saddam built this massive pleasure dome in the midst of a lake. Just the foyer of the building would easily "house" my house, with room to spare. Whole mountains somewhere are probably at sea level because of the amount of marble in this one structure.

Another palace near the airport is built on its own man-made mountain. The surrounding area has a man-made lake, surrounded by huge boathouses and houses. These pleasure palaces are surrounded by towers where machine-gun wielding guards perched during Saddam's regime.

Other people have told me about palaces in Basra and Tikrit.

Every country needs a showplace. But how many showcases does Iraq need? The palaces are the most visible example of Saddam's disregard for the Iraqi people.

BASRA, Iraq, April 30

A British medic from Yorkshire is proud of the work his ambulance crew has done in this southern Iraqi city, but wishes his "lads" would drive more carefully.

The medic, who didn't want his name used, said that most of the work he's been getting from coalition forces has been as a result of traffic accidents.

"We guarantee getting you to hospital in less than a

hour," he said. "We haven't lost anyone yet."

He said that under Saddam, health care was used as a weapon. "If you were the favored, you got world-class health care and the best drugs. If you weren't, you got next to nothing."

He said he tried to save the life of an Iraqi boy who had a brain cyst. It had gone untreated because "he came from the wrong side of town" and the boy died.

He said his unit treats and transports all people — coalition and Iraqi.

"You can learn more here in a month than you would in a year at home — burns, amputations, gunshot wounds — you just don't see that in Yorkshire."

BAGHDAD, Iraq, May 3

One observation soldiers make continually around here is, "I've got kids that age."

Kids line the streets as soldiers drive past and wave

and call to them. U.S. civil affairs personnel meet these kids every day, and they are trying to make their lives a little bit easier.

"Some of these kids are so young, they have no idea why this is happening," said Capt. Richard Cote, who commands Direct Support Team 2 with the 422nd Civil Affairs Battalion out of Fort Bragg, N.C. "They have no responsibility for this mess, and you really want to help them."

Spc. Raymond Weldon, another member of the team, described a father bringing forth a young girl. She had been playing in a mound of garbage.

"She had a huge gash in her foot," Weldon said. "We cleaned her up and got her to a clinic. But she needed shoes. We've noticed many children in the same situation."

The people the civil affairs team deals with are not the fortunate members of Saddam Hussein's Baath

Party. "These people are poor and they need a hand up," Cote said.

BAGHDAD, Iraq, May 3

Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles are fearsome weapons.

Army officials are finding that just the sight of these vehicles is enough to scare many Iraqis.

You really can't go into a neighborhood riding in an Abrams tank and expect the people there to understand you are there to help," said Maj. J.D. Keith, the executive officer of the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division.

The tracked-vehicles also destroy the streets and curbs by simply running over them.

He said that Humvees "work best in this situation. They are less threatening and the soldiers are more accessible to the population. You really can't do peace-keeping from the back of a tank."



Spc. Adam Nuelken

On 17 April 2003, at what was once Saddam Hussein's Abugabar Palace, located on the south-west side of Baghdad, soldiers make themselves comfortable. Hussein's palaces were a symbol of his wealth and power. This palace is now home to U.S. soldiers participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

Why is it important to honor our fallen troops?

"So the world can know what they did."

Spc. Maxwell Boateng
B Co., 92nd Eng. Bn.



"The sacrifices they gave for our freedom ... are the ultimate sacrifices."

Staff Sgt. William Goolsby
B Co., 3220th GSU



"They fought and died for our freedom and country."

Spc. Timothy Mahdo
A Co., 841st Eng. Bn.



"They did what it took to give us what we have."

Spc. Dominic Rangel
2/7 Infantry



"To remember what they have done and sacrificed. These people layed down their lives."

Spc. David Lorenz
B Co., 3/15 Infantry



"Honoring them is the least we can do."

Staff Sgt. Henry McNeily
MEDDAC



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Write a letter to the editor!

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Attn: The Frontline, Editor

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Consolidated Public Affairs Office

Director — Maj. Michael G. Birmingham

Deputy Director — Richard Olson

PAO Supervisor — Master Sgt. Kenneth Russ

Chief Command Information Branch — Jim Jeffcoat

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor — Jim Jeffcoat

Editor — Sgt. Raymond Piper

Staff Writer — Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Staff Writer — Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Staff Writer — Spc. Casandra Bolton

50th PAD

Staff Writer — Sgt. Craig Zentkovich

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Staff Writer — Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Writer — Spc. Natalie Schlotman

Staff Writer — Spc. Katherine Robinson

Frontline Forward

Editor — Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

Staff Writer — Spc. Jacob Boyer

Staff Writer — Spc. Adam Nuelken

Hunter Public Affairs Office

Chief — Steven Hart

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Brian Sipp

Staff Writer — Pfc. Emily Danial

Advertising Staff

Advertising Manager — Maryann Wilson

Frontline Production Manager — Juanita Vandenbosch

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The ‘buzz’ on West Nile virus

Post ready to respond to threat

Laurie Kemp
Winn Public Affairs Officer

It wouldn’t be summer in the south without 90-degree mornings and the incessant humming of mosquitoes in wait of a fresh evening meal.

While mosquitoes are nothing new, the West Nile virus is relatively so.

According to Capt. Robert G. Lowen, Installation Entomologist, now starts the time of year that “there is a small but significant risk of contracting West Nile virus or some other mosquito carried illness.”

While the risk of contracting West Nile virus is low, preventing mosquito bites is still important.

“If you prevent the mosquitoes from biting you, then you stop the risk of getting West Nile virus,” Lowen said, explaining the virus can only be contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito.

“Human illness from West Nile virus is rare, even in areas where the virus has been reported. The chance that any one person is going to become ill from a mosquito bite is low,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Anyone at any age is susceptible to mosquito bites and in turn, West Nile virus will infect anyone, at any age. According to Lowen, however, the virus has more effect on older people and those with weakened immune systems.

Symptoms of the virus are very close to those of a mild flu in healthy people.

“Most people who become infected with West

Nile virus will have either no symptoms or only mild ones. However, on rare occasions, West Nile virus infection can result in severe and sometimes fatal illnesses,” according to the CDC.

Georgia had its first human case of West Nile virus in 2001. In 2002, the CDC reported 44 human cases, in which seven deaths resulted.

In January 2002, Hinesville reported two birds tested positive for the virus and Long County reported one human case. However, no human cases have been reported in Liberty or Chatham counties.

Fort Stewart is actively involved in tracking the virus in this area, Lowen said. He traps mosquitoes locally and sends them to Fort McPherson, Ga., for testing.

“Though highly unlikely, we are ready to respond if an outbreak occurs,” he said.

Lowen stresses the message “If there are mosquitoes, the disease can be present,” and encourages people to take appropriate precautions such as wearing insect repellant.

“Lowering your risk of getting West Nile virus is easy,” he said. When outside from dusk until dawn, wear long sleeves and pants and use insect repellant.

To get rid of mosquitoes at home, keep the lawn mowed and flush out or dispose of empty containers with standing water, such as birdbaths and plant bowls.

“Two weeks of standing water pumps out a generation of mosquitoes,” Lowen said.

For more information about West Nile virus, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

Assistant chief of chaplains for mobilization, readiness to visit Stewart rear detachments

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
Staff Writer

The assistant chief of chaplains for mobilization and readiness will be visiting here Tuesday to meet with rear detachments.

Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) David Zalis will also be visiting the Mobilization Readiness Center, the Soldier Readiness Center site and meeting with Col. Gerald J. Poltorak, installation commander.

Zalis was born July 24, 1948

in Baltimore, Md. He entered the Army in 1971 after his ordination as an Orthodox Rabbi and served on active duty for more than three years at Fort Sill, Okla.

Among the many military courses he has completed, he is a 1995 graduate of the United States Army War College.

He assumed the duties as Assistant Chief of Chaplains for Mobilization and Readiness April 25, 2001 and was promoted to the rank of brigadier general Dec. 20, 2001.



Chaplain (Brig. Gen.) David Zalis

Zoo

from page 3A

were killed during the battle, and took care of them as best they could.

Two things started happening immediately — animals started disappearing and the zoo workers came back to work, according to Staff Sgt. Matthew Oliver from Hinesville, Ga.

Looters were coming in at night and stealing animals; either to sell or eat, according to Oliver. What’s left is two cheetahs, five lions, one tiger, one dog (living with the lion cubs because the dog had been with them since their birth, according to the zoo workers), two wild boars, two bears, three ostriches and one tortoise.

Looters made a small hole caused by an enemy round in the lion’s cage bigger, and the lions escaped. Soldiers tried to get the lions back in. They herded them with armored personnel carriers and got all but two in. Those two were about to make it into the city where they would have posed an immediate and serious threat to civilians when the call came down that they had to kill them.

Soldiers agonized about the decision, Szydluk said, but knew they had to do it. “We worked really hard and put ourselves in more danger than we should have to get the lions back in.”

The 17 zoo workers who came back didn’t know if the animals were still alive or if they would ever get paid. They came back to take care of their animals, Szydluk said. The soldiers and zoo workers have developed strong friendships in the short three weeks they’ve been working together. There’s the language barrier, but they’ve both learned enough of the others’ language to converse easily.

The soldiers’ role now is security from looters and to make sure the workers can do their jobs. When they greet each other, it’s like workplaces anywhere. They ask each other how they’re doing and what’s going on. The workers jokingly turn their buddies in to the soldiers as “Ali Babas” (looters), and the soldiers pretend to arrest them. The mood is very light and everyone seems to be getting something more than what’s on the surface out of the situation.

“Working with these guys has been pretty emotional. Some of these guys know nothing but Saddam, and for them to come back to work every day is huge. You can see it in their faces. They say to us, ‘You are my brother, you are my friend for life,’” Szydluk said.

Szydluk said the workers are going to get paid. He made a list of their names and when they came back to work and handed it up his chain of command. They will be paid within the next few days.

Szydluk said being around the animals was good for his soldiers.

Cpl. Eldy Vigil from Mora, N.M., said, “I never in a million years thought I’d be doing this (in war). We transitioned from fighting in a task force to taking care of animals — it was something we never trained for at Fort Stewart. I’ve always liked animals, so it was perfect.”

Cpl. Matthew St. Pierre from Steger, Ill., said, “I was never that into animals, but now I am.”

The animals are also receiving help from other nations. A conservationist from South Africa and a representative from Wildaid have been helping with the workers to attend to the animals’ needs.



Spc. Mason T. Lowery

Staff Sgt. Mathew Oliver, a 2nd Platoon, D Company, 10th Engineer soldier pets a bear at the zoo the "Dogs" watch over in Baghdad April 29.



117th ACS cuts ribbon for new maintenance facility

Sgt. Raymond Piper

Editor

The 117th Air Control Squadron, Georgia Air National Guard, cut the ribbon for their new maintenance facility Saturday at Hunter Army Airfield.

The 14,350 square-foot facility is twice the size of the original maintenance shop.

"The old facility was half the size of this one so our mechanics were very cramped," said Air Force Master Sgt. William Rossiter, vehicle maintenance superintendent.

About 95 percent of everything in the facility is brand new, Rossiter said.

He added, "The facility is so new we're still in the process of hooking up some of the equipment."

Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Austin, 117th ACS commander, said, "The new facility will allow us to perform all levels of maintenance. The only thing we can't do is paint the vehicles."

The old facility was located off of Hunter on Eisenhower drive. To perform maintenance on a vehicle, it had to be moved to the site.

"It was difficult to do maintenance on the vehicles because the vehicles had to be moved

to the old site, which was about 10 miles away," Rossiter said. "It was a logistical nightmare."

The 117th's mission is to provide theater command with battle management, radar surveillance, control and communication capabilities to plan and execute combined air operations for all services, and provide state authorities with a dedicated force ready to react to local emergencies.

"The unit works mostly with Army Air Defense Artillery brigades, and we have many of the same vehicles as Army units ... so we have to be able to maintain our more than 160 vehicles so they can get to the fight," said Austin.

The more than \$200 million facility was built under a Military Construction Cooperative Agreement between the National Guard Bureau and the State of Georgia so the cost was split between state and federal funds.

"This building was a great team effort. We have had a lot of political help from the state and Washington D.C.," said Air Force Maj. Gen. David Poythress, adjutant general for the Georgia National Guard. "I know this building will be a great tool for your success."



Sgt. Raymond Piper

Air Force Maj. Gen. David Poythress, Georgia National Guard adjutant general, Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Austin, 117th ACS Commander, and Air Force Maj. Gen. William Searcy, Georgia Air National Guard commander, cut the ribbon for the 117th ACS's new maintenance facility.

Tankers learn lessons of peacekeeping

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

BAGHDAD, Iraq — "If someone is running away from the gas station, don't shoot," Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Lujan told his men. "Remember, this is peacekeeping. We're not in combat."

In a nutshell, that's the problem facing combat units in Iraq: the transition from war to peace.

Lujan and his patrol are members of the Company C, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor, 3rd Infantry Division. They fought all the way from the berm separating Kuwait and Iraq to Baghdad. Now, the tankers were doing a nighttime patrol to check out a hospital and a gas station once reserved for privileged members of Saddam Hussein's society.

Their battalion had engaged and defeated the Iraqi Republican Guard's armored units during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Now they have different rules of engagement.

The patrol didn't have its Abrams tank. Instead, it was a dismounted patrol with a Humvee that had a roof-mounted .50-caliber machine gun for fire support.

Lujan didn't expect trouble at the hospital. "The doctors and staff here have organized to protect the hospital," he said. "We're just going to ensure any looters or criminal elements understand this place is under our eye."

The gas station was a different story. The patrol carried plastic handcuffs for looters they might encounter.

Lujan began the patrol with two men up front and he walking behind them. The

Humvee followed with lights out.

It's a measure of the security in Baghdad that there was no trouble at either place. People were in the streets — it was before the 11 p.m. curfew — but they were peaceful. A group of young men played soccer under a street lamp. Families sat outside their houses. Lujan greeted each family group, and each replied.

Lujan has some experience with peacekeeping, having served earlier in his career in the Balkans. He understood the difference between combat and peacekeeping, and he made sure his men did.

"We've got to provide security for these people to get their lives back on track," he said. "It's like the Balkans or anyplace else: People won't go back to work if they are worried about their families' safety, and businesses won't run if they think they will be looted."

That didn't seem to be a problem in Lujan's sector, although across the 14th of July Bridge, he and his men could hear gunfire and the occasional pop of a flare. "I don't think that's ours," he said.

At the end of the patrol, he met up with the second part of his platoon. They were on an Abrams tank blocking the 14th of July Bridge. Young and old stopped by the razor-wire barricade and tried to bridge the communications gap by speaking with the soldiers. "That's one thing we need in peacekeeping: translators," he said.

Like the rest of the division, Lujan is ready to get back to Forts Stewart and Benning in Georgia. "I feel we've done a good job of switching from combat ops to peacekeeping," he said.

What goes up must come down ...



U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeremy T. Lock

At the request of hospital staff, soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) drive their Bradley Fighting Vehicle over a picture of Saddam Hussein in the courtyard of Yarmuk Hospital.

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Stewart

Appreciation Day

DCAS and Hinesville Military Affairs Council are sponsoring Military Spouse Appreciation Day at Walker Field, 5:30 p.m. May 9. Military spouses and their families are invited for an appreciation ceremony, free picnic to hear patriotic and gospel music, games and kiddie rides for children.

Food will be served until 7:30 p.m. and the evening ending with a candle lighting ceremony.

Family Fishing Rodeo

This family fun event will be held at Pond 10, May 10. Parents can bring children for outdoor recreation, fishing and prizes.

For more information call 767-5145 or 767-8609.

Letters from the Front

A story of Katherine Hargrove, whose son was sent to the front in 1991 and the man who loved her, will be playing at Fort Stewart Woodruff Theatre May 9 and 10 at 7 p.m.

Emotional content and not recommended for children.

15th Street temporary change

Effective Monday, the traffic at the 15th Street Gate will be temporarily restricted to a single inbound lane. Outbound traffic must exit the installation through any of the other open gates. This restriction will last until first week in June.

Bultman Avenue

Bultman Avenue between Gulick Avenue and Frank Cochran Drive will be closed to traffic today until close of business May 12.

Warrant officer board

HQDA has announced the Fiscal Year 2003 CW 3, 4 and 5 Promotion Board. The board is scheduled to meet April 29. The following are the zones of consideration for all grades:

- AV MOSs less 151A
- Above Zone — Sept. 30, 1997, and earlier
- Primary Zone — Oct. 1, 1997, through Sept. 30, 1998
- Below Zone — Oct. 1, 1998, through Sept. 30, 1999
- Tech MOSs plus 151A
- Above Zone — Sept. 30, 1998, and earlier
- Primary Zone — Oct. 1, 1998, through Sept. 30, 1999
- Below Zone — Oct. 1, 1999, through Sept. 30, 2000

Officers who will be considered by this board in all zones of consideration should immediately sched-

ule themselves for a new digital photo.

In addition to having the new digital photo posted to their files, officers will also receive two hard copies. These hard copy photos must be forwarded to PERSCOM in time for the promotion board.

For more information, call 767-3416 or 352-6296.

Special Forces

The Special Forces recruiting office is seeking professional enlist-ed and officer volunteers to join the ranks of one of America's most premier fighting forces.

To learn more about Special Forces attend a weekly briefing at Hunter at noon and 2 p.m., Tuesdays, at the Education Center or Fort Stewart at 10 a.m., 2 and 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Special Forces Recruiting Office Building 132.

For more information, call 767-0229.

Environmental Assessment

M3A3 Bradley Fire Support Team (BFIST) Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates potential environmental impacts encountered during manufacturing, testing, and field use of the M3A3 BFIST.

These vehicles will be fielded at Fort Stewart. It has been concluded by EA there is no significant environmental impact and no statement is required for continued manufacture and use of these vehicles.

For more information contact Mr. Kenneth Pitko at (586)574-6321.

Learning center hours

The Main Education and 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Centers, Buildings 130 and 1237 respectively, will expand their hours due to the high demand for services during the day and evening hours. Two temporary changes are in effect until further notice.

Computer access will be available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, will be available 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday.

Learning Center, Building 1237 will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Do It Yourself

Learn to check tire pressure, rotate your tires, inspect belts, hoses, brakes and more.

Libby Auto has classes available during the week and weekends. Teens are welcome.

For more information call 767-3527.

Hunter

Scottish Games

The Savannah Scottish Games Committee is making their tickets free (regularly \$10 for adults) for military spouses and children with their dependent ID cards.

The Games are held Saturday, May 10 at Old Fort Jackson. Children's games include egg and spoon race, sack race, lightweight caber toss and face painting. Free T-shirts will be given to all registered children.

For more information contact Moira Vejar at 961-1783.

Softball Tourney

Memorial Day Softball Tourney will be held May 23 & 24. Entry fee is \$100 and deadline is May 21. There is a maximum of 15 people per team.

For more information call the Hunter Sports Office at 352-6749.

After-school Program

The Hunter Youth Center is now signing up students in the 6th grade level and higher for a free After-School Program.

1st through 5th graders may also sign up, however, space is limited. Those who are interested can register at Building. 1286.

Phatt Katz Comedy Show

The Phatt Katz Comedy Run will present shows at the Hunter Club on Wednesday starting at 9:30 p.m. Performances will feature two comedians and one headliner.

Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For reservations call 912-269-0277.

First Steps Program

The First Steps Program needs volunteers. This is a program that provides information and support to expectant and new parents stationed at Hunter. Volunteers make home visits to expectant parents and provide a 12 month phone call follow up.

Volunteers are paid mileage reimbursement and enjoy flexible hours. For more information, call 756-6516.

Wilson Avenue

Widening and resurfacing from approximately 800 feet west of the Stephenson Gate to the intersection of Lightening Road is scheduled to Commence Monday until July 3, tentatively. Traffic will be maintained to one lane.

Bible Baptist Church

The Bible Baptist Church honors military personnel and their

families Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Live music and entertainment, food, games, hayrides, and guest appearance by Savannah Sand Gnats.

Church is located at 4700 Skidaway Road. RSVP at 352-3020.

Softball

Intramural Softball registration is still open – sign up today! Semi-pro baseball is also available. All sports open to active duty, reserve component soldiers and family members.

For more information call Art Lewis, Hunter Sports Office at 352-6749.

Continuing education

Family members, Army Reservists and National Guardsmen can continue their education during their relocation to Hunter Army Airfield, regardless of their specific unit, at the Hunter Army Airfield Education Center, Building 1290. For more information, call 352-6130.

Classrooms are also available for training and FRG meetings. For additional information about these locations, or the ACES program, call the Main Education Center at 352-6130.

Operation Yellow Ribbon

Operation Yellow Ribbon Savannah/Hinesville 2003 will be held May 17 at Lake Mayer. Entertainment and family fun from 1 tp 4 p.m., special guest speakers and candle light vigil from 4 to 8 p.m.

Press coverage expected – bring your pictures of your soldiers and signs of support. Lawn chairs and blankets are recommended.

Youth Services

Youth Services is offering tae kwon do classes, golf lessons, weight training, basketball, cheer-leading, soccer clinics and much more.

For more information call Youth Services at 352-5708 or 352-6075.

Swimming Lessons

Red Cross certified swimming lessons held at pool located between Community Club and hotel. Must be a CYS member and must register in advance.

Fee is \$25 and classes are limited to 10 students. All classes will be held Monday through Thursday with Friday being a rain day.

For more information call Youth Services at 352-5708 or 352-6075

Winn Army Community Hospital

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 20 at Winn Army Community Hospital.

“Take Care of Yourself”

The next Winn “Take Care of Yourself” classes will be 2 to 3 p.m. May 14 and 11 a.m. to noon May 28. Tuttle's class will be 10 to 11 a.m. April 30.

The class gives an overview of how to use the “Take Care of Yourself” book. Upon completing the class, you will receive a card that allows you to get over-the-counter medications from Winn or Tuttle.

To register for the Winn class, call 370-5071. To register for the Tuttle class, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Tobacco Cessation

Tobacco Cessations classes will be available at Winn 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday starting May 15.

To register for the class, call 370-5071. The class will be available at Tuttle 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays starting May 7.

To register for the class, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Expectant Mothers Support

The Expectant Mothers Support Group is specifically tailored to the meet the needs of pregnant women whose significant other is deployed. The next meeting will be 9 a.m. May 13 at Club Stewart.

The educational class topic will be pregnancy wellness. Childcare will be available with advanced notice. For more information or to book childcare, call Beth Wilkinson at 370-6779.

Bereavement Support Group

A Sunrise Bereavement Support Group will be held 7 to 8 p.m. May 13 in Winn's chapel. The group is open to beneficiaries who have lost a loved one. For more information, call 370-6661 or 370-6779.

Coping Support Groups

The Coping Support Group is for adults having difficulty dealing with the stress in their life. The group meets 9 to 10:30 a.m. every Monday.

The Coping Support Group for Children meets 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday for children ages 6 to 9 and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday for children ages 10 to 13.

For more information, call

370-6100.

TRICARE Hours of Operation

The TRICARE Service Center will be open 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Regular business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call 370-6015.

Tuttle TRICARE enrollment

TRICARE enrollment briefings for Tuttle are held by appointment from 9 to 11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday.

To schedule an appointment, call 767-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Winn and Tuttle Champions

The Winn and Tuttle Champions program matches representatives with Family Readiness Groups to answer questions about what healthcare services are available to you - from transferring your TRICARE enrollment to refilling prescriptions to schedule appointments.

For more information, call Winn's representatives, Linda King or Darla Vaught, at 370-6225/6143 or Tuttle's representative, Marilyn O'Mallon, at 352-6015.

Intervention Services

Military families with children up to 3 years old who may be at risk for developmental delays can call Educational and Developmental Intervention Services for a free screening.

Services include home visits, occupational therapy, special instruction, physical therapy, speech and language therapy, vision and hearing screenings, family training, developmental screenings and assessments.

For more information, call 370-6349.

ASAP sees families

The Army Substance Abuse Program will now see dependant family members at least 18-years-old, retirees, contract employees and Department of the Army civilians on a walk-in basis. ASAP is located in Building 620 on 6th Street.

For more information, call 767-5265/5267.

Pregnancy Nurse Line

Patients more than 20 weeks pregnant who have questions between their regularly scheduled appointments can call the direct nurse line at 370-6550.

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Civilian, 15-year-old female
 - **Charges:** Simple assault
 - **Location:** Hunter Army Airfield
-
- **Subject:** Private First Class, 24-year-old male, Headquarters Command
 - **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to maintain lane
 - **Location:** Savannah
-
- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year male, 24th Support Group
 - **Charges:** Improper backing
 - **Location:** Hunter Army Airfield

- **Subject:** Airman First Class, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence improper lane usage
- **Location:** Liberty County

- **Subject:** Civilian, 34-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Petty Officer Third Class, 39-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving with unlawful blood alcohol level
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Family member, 23-year-old female
- **Charges:** Defective equipment, driving while privileges suspended, no insurance, driving while privileges suspended on post.
- **Location:** Hunter Army Airfield

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, driving while tags expired
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 22-year-old male, 1st Brigade
- **Charges:** Simple battery
- **Location:** Walthourville

- **Subject:** Civilian, 46-year-old male
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Too fast for conditions
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 21-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** Wrongful use, possession and distribution of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Family member, 32-year-old female
- **Charges:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 30-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Larceny of private property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 21-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** No drivers license on person
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 23-year-old male, 24th Support Group
- **Charges:** Speeding
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while drinking
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 28-year-old female
- **Charges:** Harassing telephone calls
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Corporal, 34-year-old male, Division Artillery
- **Charges:** DUI refusal, possession of open contain-

- er while operating a vehicle, license not on person, improper lane usage
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, improper lane usage
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Petty Officer Third Class, 22-year-old male, Coast Guard
- **Charge:** Speeding, driving while license is suspended
- **Location:** Hunter Army Airfield

- **Subject::** Specialist, 30-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Specialist, 38-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charge:** Larceny of NAF property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 21-year-old male, Headquarters Command
- **Charge:** Self-injury with intent to avoid service
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 30-year-old male, separate battalion

- **Charge:** Speeding, no proof of insurance, cracked windshield
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Family member, 24-year-old female
- **Charge:** Speeding
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old-male, Headquarters Command
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Statesboro

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 47-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence, driving on a suspended license, failure to use headlights
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Civilian, 52-year-old male,
- **Charge:** Opening vehicle doors and interfering with traffic
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 45-year-old male,
- **Charge:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 57-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Failure to obey traffic control device
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian,45-year-old male
- **Charge:** Improper backing
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Civilian, 28-year-old male
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Family member, 25-year-old female
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

- **Subject:** Specialist, 19-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct
- **Location:** Savannah

- **Subject:** Private First Class, 19-year old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence, failure to obey traffic control device
- **Location:** Hinesville

- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, separate battalion
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence, laying drag
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

Sappers keep watch over Tigris

Spc. Adam Nuelken
3rd Inf. Div. (Mech) Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD, Iraq, — When they are building bridges and docks, the 671st Engineer Company appear to be bumper boats — twin turbo diesel and raw power slamming into each other to push pieces together.

Graceful they may not be, but effective yes.

The unit recently built a 26 bay bridge over the Euphrates River. Each bay is about 20 feet square and can support a 70-ton M1A1 Abrams over water.

When not building bridges, the unit is usually at work building six segment ferries to transport vehicles across rivers.

“The 26 bay we built at Objective Chamberlain was a nine-hour project — mostly from prepping the shore,” said Staff Sgt. Matthew Runte, senior boat operator, 671st Eng. Co. and Seattle native. “We can build a six-bay ferry — standard is 20 minutes — we can do it in nine.”

But while the unit is with Task Force 2-69 Armor, it plays a whole new role. The River Rats have taken on a squad of infantrymen and now do patrols up and down the Tigris.

“We’re doing very thorough infantry clearing operations — amphibious style,” said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Dale, Jr., noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the patrols for TF 2-69 AR, and a Sanford, Fla. native.

The River Rats have been patrolling the Tigris in search of unexploded ordnance, weapons and to make their presence known.

“The mission from what I understand is weapon denial, UXO (policing) and curfew enforcement, and we do seizure of stolen boats and government property,” Runte said. “From what I understand, we also need to look loud and big — get the boats up on a plane, make noise and let our presence be known, so the people don’t try and do anything stupid.”

The patrols have been effective, when the River Rats return to their dock, they’ll off-load dozens of grenades and random military equipment as well as passing info up to command of weapon and ammunition stashes in the surrounding area.

The River Rats have also been utilized to carry psychological operations units and civil affairs units to pass out information and aid the locals.



Photos by Spc. Adam Nuelken

Soldiers from the 671st Eng. Co push an addition to their dock before securing it. The unit built 26 bay bridges over the Euphrates River.



(Above) Pfc. Wonjae Kang, an infantryman with C Co. 1/15 Inf., Task Force 1-69 Armor, scans the river while patrolling the Tigris River. (Left) Soldiers from the 671st Eng. Co. and C Co. 1/15 Inf. patrol the Tigris River through Baghdad.

Trail of Trees

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
 Staff Writer

Diamond Elementary hosted the Trail of Trees program to give students a better understanding of the importance of trees. The program is a fast pace highly animat-ed interactive program, said Tim Womick, the National Tree Trust storyteller. Womick started off by getting the children involved by asking them what important things come from trees and the children who answered correctly received tree seeds. The program consisted of music with lots of interaction, he said. It is considered perfor-mance art and is a solid learning experience. He taught the kids about photosynthesis, the process in green plants and certain other

organisms by which carbohydrates are syn-thesized from carbon dioxide and water using light as an energy source. Also, with his lessons on the importance of trees Womick played a wooden African drum to help interact with the audience. While, he beat on the drum the children clapped to the beat. The program will hopefully stimulate the participants into a new dialogue, not only wonders of trees but also stimulate a under-standing of human potential, he said. “I have performed from prisons to pre-school and everywhere between,” said Womick. “I have been performing for 10 years and do about 200 shows a year.” The goal of the program is that people grasps the value of trees, he said.

Tim Womick beats on a wooden African drum while the treeture claps to the beat. He begins his Trail of Trees program with this to get the kids involved, the kids clap their hands to the beat of the drum. The goal of the program is to give the audience a better grasp of the importance of trees. He explains how it is not wrong to cut down trees if need and done with out waste.



Photos by Spc. Jonathan M. Stack
 Tim Womick conducts an interactive program with children of Diamond Elementary School on the importance of trees May 2. The program involved music, questions and prizes and an understanding of the need to preserve our trees.

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AMMO

from page 1A

Rocket System) discovered the munitions in the school, and with help from local laborers, they plan to remove all of it.

“We’re getting the ammunition out of the school and local areas and to a secure site,” said 1st Sgt. Ronald Cole, Headquarters and Headquarters Service Company, TF 1-39 FA, and Glennville, Ga. native.

The unit pays 11 locals two dollars a day to help the soldiers remove the ammunition, but before anyone tries remov-

ing it, explosive ordnance disposal units inspect the ordnance for traps and to make sure the rounds are stable to handle.

“We’re paying them to help us move tons of ammunition,” Cole said. “We do have EOD experts come through and make sure it’s safe to handle.”

Ammunition has been found throughout the country in schools, hospitals and bunkers alike.

Units are informed by their commands to search “possible

schools and hospitals that are known to hold weapons and ammunition,” according to Kumar.

Cole said a lot of schools, hospitals and even mosques are used to store ammunition and weapons because it is against the Geneva Convention and U.S. forces will not attack them.

The effort to remove weapons and ammunition continues everyday with new sites being found and tons of ordnance needing to be removed.



Spc. Adam Nuelken

Sgt. 1st Class Ramon Kumar, platoon sergeant for the 59th Chemical Company, looks at hundreds of artillery shells that lay behind Al Ibtahal school just west of Baghdad.

MOC

from page 1A

Though the center was responsible for sending troops overseas it is also the element who will be receiving and sending troops home once their mission is over in Iraq.

The MOC had on average 14 days to make sure that units had gone through all stations at the Soldier Readiness Center, weapons qualification and Common Task Training before they were ready to ship.

“We have approximately five days to receive, process and send troops home to their families once they get here,” said Major Rufus Curry, Jr., senior actions officer for the MOC.

With a longer time spent mobilizing

troops than demobilizing them, some wonder how the center is going to change its mission.

“The mission of the MOC is never primarily one thing,” Curry said. “We can mobilize troops and send them off then turn around and demobilize troops.”

“We are able to do both missions at once through the excellent leadership we have here that enables us to accomplish both objectives,” Curry said.

The five day process of demobilization will take the soldiers through different stations.

“We will make sure that their medical and dental records are in order before

returning to home station,” Curry said. “As well as make sure that all of their administration paperwork is in order.”

“We have to make sure that they get credit for their service time and that their DD-214 is correct before we are able to send them home,” Curry said.

Though no one knows when the soldiers will start to come home, Curry is expecting them to return much like they left.

“When they left, they trickled out then hit us hard, so we expect the same when they return, because what goes out must come home,” said Curry. “And that is what we plan to do ... get them home.”

TRAIN

from page 1A

that Boyd VanHorne, the driver of the truck died at the accident. Twenty-seven people on the train were injured, one seriously. The train’s engineer was taken by helicopter to Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, Ga., some 23 people were taken to Liberty Regional Medical Center and three others were taken to Winn Army Community Hospital for treatment.

The rest of the passengers were evacuated by school bus to local gymnasiums, one was Newman Physical Fitness Center at Fort Stewart, where they waited to be taken to their original destinations.

The Silver Star was on its way to Miami from New York’s Penn Station at

the time of the accident.

Witnesses reported hearing a large crash when the accident occurred, followed by the sounds of the emergency response teams shortly after.

“We’ll be investigating the accident,” said Gary Sease, CSX Corp. Police.

CSX owns the tracks where the accident occurred.

Those present at the scene were very thankful for the help that came in the form of Fort Stewart emergency services.

“We would’ve not been able to have such a quick control of the accident if it were not for the Fort Stewart organizations that assisted,” said Clifford Black, Amtrak spokesperson.



Sgt. Sam Hoffman

Art Rincones, Fort Stewart emergency medical technician walks along the derailed Silver Star. Despite the impact and shredded tracks, the train managed to remain upright.



Pfc. Andrew Hillegass

Sgt. Gustavo Regus helps a soldier to adjust his protective mask during Common Task Training, part of the validation process.

Get your motor running ...



Photos by Sgt. Sam Hoffman

The long column of riders crosses over a bridge on Georgia Highway 341, outside of Baxley. The first Armed Forces Ride attracted motorcycle clubs from Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Bikers hold ride to raise money for soldiers' families

Sgt. Sam Hoffman
Staff Writer

The True Soldiers motorcycle club held a fundraising ride through Liberty and neighboring counties May 3. The first Armed Forces Ride began at 11 a.m. at the Dorchester Academy.

Motorcycle clubs from Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina participated and the ride was open to anyone with a motorcycle, said Snake, president of True Soldiers.

"We started out with 40 to 50 riders. As soon as we put out that it's for the soldiers, it grew," he said.

The proceeds from the ride went to the Chaplains Club Food Basket, an Army Community Service program.

"I really appreciate all the people coming out to show their support," Snake said.

First stop for the ride was the Fort Stewart Museum, where Command Sgt. Major Carl T. Smith, installation command sergeant major, was ready with a warm welcome.

He thanked the bikers for inviting him to speak.

"It's an honor to be asked," he told the crowd of nearly 100 bikers, "You're

doing something good for our Army's families and sometimes they need it."

A few anecdotes about soldiers were exchanged and Smith walked about the parking lot, greeting participants and answering questions about Fort Stewart.

Smith also commented on the high moral character of the motorcycle club members.

"Selfless service does not happen by chance. It happens by choice," he said.

After leaving Fort Stewart, the ride went through Pembroke, Claxton, Glenville, Baxley, Jesup and Ludowici before returning to Hinesville.

In every town, people with motorcycles of all kinds would join the caravan.

The whole trip spanned 134 miles; the last 34 were dedicated to the 34 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) soldiers killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Snake said.

"Originally it was 100 miles, but we made it longer this year to honor our fallen heroes," he said.

True Soldiers has organized many rides before, said Snake, but this was the first where all of the proceeds went to military families.

The club is made up entirely of retired and active-duty service mem-

bers.

It is a very family- oriented club, apparent by the number of spouses and children who showed up to provide all kinds of support for the ride.

"We must also not forget our deployed members and their families," said Snake, "True Soldiers has 14 members and 5 associate members fighting a war. They are constantly in our thoughts."

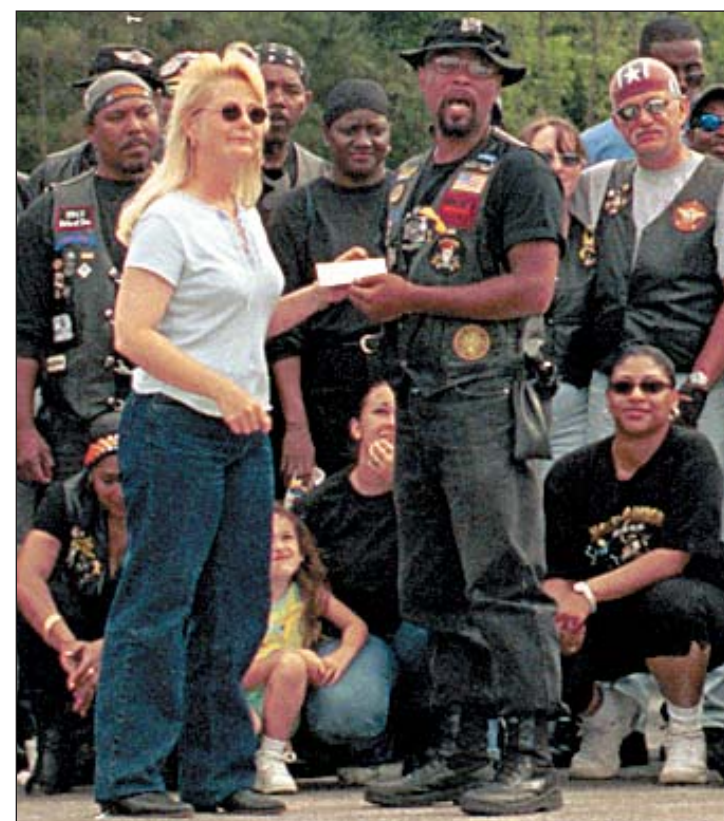
Yellow ribbons were given to participants to wear on their vests, another reminder of the reason that this event was held.

"Some of us didn't get the chance to participate this time, but we can still help even if we're not over there in Iraq," said Sgt. Maj. Ray Curtis, non-commissioned officer in charge of ceremonies and True Soldiers member.

At the end of the day, the Armed Forces Ride raised nearly \$1,000, which was presented to Susan Wilder, mobilization and deployment specialist for ACS.

It was an overcast day, but drops of water didn't keep these bikers from supporting the troops.

"If these soldiers can ride across the desert, we can ride in a little rain. Hooah!" said Snake.



Susan Wilder accepts a check made from the participants' entrance fees from Snake. The Armed Forces Ride cost \$10 to ride and proceeds went to the Chaplains Club Food Basket.

On Post

Spouses' night out

A Spouses' Night Out will be held 6 to 10 p.m., Friday at Club Stewart's Patriot Corner. There will be line dancing and ballroom dancing lessons at 7:30 p.m. There will also be board games, music, snacks, cards and a beverage station. Child care is available, call CYS at 767-3203 for child care requirements.

Toastmasters

Whether you're a professional, student, stay-at-home parent or retiree, Toastmasters is the best way to improve your communication skills. The Dog-Faced Soldiers Toastmasters International Club meets noon every second and fourth Wednesday at Club Stewart and is open to everyone. For more information, call 767-0383 or email at Bowenja@stewart.army.mil.

Education Center hours

The Main Education Center and 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Centers, Buildings 130 and 1237 have expanded their hours due to the high demand for services during the day and evening hours until no longer needed. Computer access will be available during the week at the Main Learning Center, Building 130, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The 1st Brigade/DIVARTY Learning Center, Building 1237, will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Prayer Warriors

The Fort Stewart Prayer Warriors meet 3 to 4 p.m., Sundays at Marne Chapel Conference Room. This prayer group is open to everyone, if you cannot make it, email your soldier's name and unit to caseybcraig@coastalnow.net and we will add them to our prayer list. No babysitting is provided, please bring a toy for your child.

Prayer service

The installation commander announces a weekly prayer service, noon to 12:20 p.m., Thursdays at Marne Chapel. It is a prayer time for Remembrance and Hope.

CYS Central Registration

The CYS Central Registration, Building 443 will be open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday and Friday by appointment only; 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday by appointment only and all day Wednesday for walk-in. Pick up records from your child's program (SAS, CDC, FCC and YS) prior to update. For more information, call 767-2312.

Off Post

Parent's night out

Enjoy a night out while your kids have fun at the YMCA 5 to 10 p.m., Fridays and every 2nd and 4th Saturday. Rates per child, per hour are E-1 through E-4, \$1; E-5 through E-6, \$1.25 and all others, \$1.50. Children may bring swimsuits. Registration is required and may be completed when children are dropped off.

Art School Exhibit

Hospice Savannah will host the End of the Year Exhibit of Student Art Work 2003, May 1 to May 31 at the Hospice Savannah Art Gallery at 6711 LaRoche Avenue. The gallery is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. For more information, call 355-2289 or 691-1181.

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.

Soldiers celebrate Easter away from home

Sgt. Akilah C. Clarke

3rd Inf. Div. PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The former home of Saddam Hussein's private aircraft wasn't a usual setting for a church service, but the soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mech.) made it so as they lifted their voices and sang praises in celebration Easter Sunday April 20. The sermon was delivered by Chaplain (Col.) Doug Carver, V Corps Chaplain, who spoke about Jesus Christ being the hope for all nations. Although being far away from home during this and other holidays is hard on the soldiers, it has given many an opportunity to reflect on the things that are most important to them, Carver said. "This will probably be the most memorable service throughout our lives," Carver said to the crowd of 360 soldiers. "One of the things the war has done is given us all a reality check. We've thought over what is truly important in our lives. We've had a reality check on our family, friends, the importance of time and the brevity of life." Carver went on to explain that the first witnesses of Easter also had a reality check, as they

"Christ the Lord is risen to day, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heav'ns and earth reply: Alleluia!"

From the hymn "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

searched the graveyard for their savior and found that He was not there. "Why search for a savior in a graveyard," Carver asked. "Christ has put to death all evil things in life. He is alive this morning, here in this hangar. The witnesses were given a reason for hope. The resurrection of Jesus has given us reason for hope." Maj. Gen. Buford Blount, 3rd Inf. Div. (Mech.) commanding general, also spoke to the soldiers during the service, saying that the division has been through a lot during the war, and that although the soldiers weren't able to spend this holiday at home, "to be able to celebrate

Easter in Baghdad is very special." "I would've liked to have had everyone at home by now, but we're going to try to get everyone home as soon as possible," he said. "But since we can't be home, we can celebrate with our other family — our military family." After the service, Carver commented on how significant it was for soldiers to come together and celebrate Easter, even if it wasn't in their respective places of worship. "This is a great opportunity for soldiers to come together to worship and fellowship, and share in their common faiths during this service," he said.

Rhonda Vincent and the Rage brings Bluegrass to Stewart



Spc. Casandra Bolton

Hunter Barry, fiddle player, and Rhonda Vincent, mandolin player, perform with the rest of the Rage during the concert at the commissary.

Spc. Casandra Bolton

Staff Writer 372nd MPAD

Rhonda Vincent and the Rage, a very talented bluegrass band, performed in front of the commissary April 30. "This is a great opportunity for us to provide a great benefit for the military," said Joe Green, Georgia Zone manager of Commissaries in Georgia. The day was kicked off when different organizations donated time and products to make the day one with fun and entertainment. The day of activities lasted for three hours. The band started to perform at noon and played for one hour straight offering a variety of bluegrass sounds. "Rhonda Vincent offered to come out and perform," said Don Snelsire, Commissary store director. There were free hotdogs, sodas and chips to all of the patrons. "We had a vendor come up to us and offer free hotdogs. When other vendors found out about this, we had all kinds of donations," said Snelsire. "This is a beautiful day to be out here," said Snelsire with a warm smile on his face. There were some soldiers set up under trees while others sat on and around the barricades. "I call it a free day out for the military and their spouses with a little bit of music," said Snelsire. "They deserve it," said Green.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day to be held at Stewart, Hunter

Nancy Gould

DCAS Marketing

The Directorate of Community Activities and Services will sponsor Military Spouse Appreciation Day, Friday, at Fort Stewart and Saturday, at Hunter Army Airfield. All military spouses and their families in the Hunter and Fort Stewart areas are invited to attend this event to honor spouses for their unselfish contributions to the spirit and well being of their soldiers and their communities. Former President Ronald Reagan initiated the first Military Spouse Appreciation Day in April 1984. The event is usually commemorated at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield with a 5 kilometer walk and reception that follows. This year, additional activities are planned to honor spouses for their continuous display of courage dur-

ing their soldiers' recent deployment to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. "These women are rocks!" said Beverly Childs, Deputy DCAS. "They've managed the stress during this tough time extremely well and we wanted to do something special for them." A Top of the Rock 5 Kilometer Walk is the first special event of the day at Fort Stewart. It begins 9:30 a.m. at the Army Community Service building, located on Lindquist Road. It ends at the ACS building at 10:30 a.m. No pre-registration is required. A free picnic at Fort Stewart is the featured event of the day. Co-sponsored by the Hinesville Military Affairs Committee, it begins 5:30 p.m. on Walker Field, at the same time the children activities begin, which includes pony rides, a

climbing wall, a basketball 4 in 1 bounce, a moonwalk and a fire truck ride. Sports events for older children include a soccer kick and a sports challenge event, as well as face painting and games for younger children. Patriotic songs, gospel music, and other events are scheduled throughout the afternoon until 7:30 p.m., when the picnic ends and the appreciation ceremony begins. A candle lighting ceremony at 8 p.m. concludes the day. The Hunter Military Spouse Appreciation Day observance will be held in conjunction with a monthly dinner, sponsored by the Savannah Chapter of the American Red Cross, for the military spouses and their families. The catered dinner is scheduled 6 p.m. at Hunter Club. For additional information about this event, call 912-767-2697.

Reuniting with loved ones

Susan Wilder

Special to the Frontline

Deployments are hard, there is no denying that, but reunion and re-integration into the family can also be hard. The challenges of reunion can be overcome and worked through with the right information and education so that problems can be minimized and positive aspects of homecoming can be maximized. As the re-deployment date nears for your soldier to return, you may feel nervous excitement building. You are not alone — your partner is feeling the same thing! Expectations of how you believe or imagine your reunion can be hard to overcome. Try not to spend any time thinking about how you and your partner will be the first moments you see each other, as expectations that are not met can be a real let down. Change is a difficult thing for most of us, and long deployments make things change, even though you may not realize it. Take a few moments, think about how you have changed, physically, spiritually, emotionally and what has changed around you? Did you move? Have joint friends moved away? Have you made new friendships? Did you get a job or go back to work? No matter how

hard you may have tried, something in your life has changed. Trust issues often surface during the reunion process. Trust includes promises made to each other prior to the deployment, such as saving money, finding a job, losing weight, writing a weekly letter and so on. If you or your partner did not accomplish everything you wanted, now is a great time to sit down together and make a plan. Accept that "Life Happens" and you did not get all done that you wanted. Trust that your partner made the best decisions he or she could, you may not agree with all those decisions, but that does not make them bad decisions either. Homecoming is a time when we learn to communicate face to face again. Think about how you have been communicating with your partner during the deployment: Phones, email and video teleconferencing are great ways to stay in touch, but face to face communication has many factors including body language. This is a great time to really enhance your relationship. Take time to become a team again and if you find that you are having communication problems, Army Community Service offers a great Couples

Vaden Nissan oils up military for free

Pfc. Emily Danial

Staff Writer, Public Affairs

Whenever most people hear the word “free,” especially in conjunction with anything having to do with their car, their brains tend to switch into “must get it” mode.

Military families are no different than the general public in that respect, so you can imagine the response when the Vaden Nissan car dealership in Savannah announced it was offering free oil changes to all military members and their families April 26 and 27 – no strings attached.

“We had 168 cars come out Saturday, and 60 so far today,” said Kim Waldron, Family

Readiness Group leader for 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment Sunday afternoon.

Drivers cruising past the dealership over the weekend were certainly well aware of the purpose of the promotion, according to Waldron.

“We have volunteers who have been standing outside holding signs that say ‘Honk if you support the troops,’ and ‘Honk if you’re Hooah,’ and the honks have been nonstop ... everyone’s been so supportive.”

Waldron, who helped coordinate with Nissan to plan the event, said the volunteers’ response to the event was just as impressive.

“When we announced it in the FRGs, we had 50 wives volunteer,” she said. “We set up hourly shifts for them to be out here, but

most everyone stayed all day.”

The wives, as well as some children, stood near the entrance to the dealership with their signs throughout the duration of the event, and Waldron said their spirit never faltered.

The women collected donations for the troops from anyone who offered, but mostly served as heralds of the joyous news that something was being given for free, waving American flags as they waved people in to get their car serviced.

FRG members weren’t the only ones spending their weekend helping out, though – every Vaden Nissan service technician who was working that weekend was doing it on his own time.

“When the event was being planned, we asked for a few workers who would be willing to come out here and do this,” said Waldron. “All of them came ... and they’ll all be back at work first thing Monday morning.”

Susan Petersen, Customer Development Manager at Vaden Nissan, said 60 percent of the dealership’s employees are or have been affiliated with the military.

Offering the free oil change, she said, was “the very least we could do ... every car we sell, we donated \$200 to the (soldiers’) fund.”

Petersen said the various sponsors who had offered to help out with the event had made it possible.

“It took about three weeks to organize,” she said. “Rick Himel (of Vaden Nissan) contacted the sponsors ... everybody totally donated without hesitation, whatever we needed.”

The sponsors included Midway Napa Auto Parts, Outback Steakhouse, Colonial Oil, the *Savannah Morning News*, and T-Shirts Plus.

“We’re grateful to the troops,” said Petersen, whose husband retired from the Army and daughter is an active duty Air Force member.



photos by Pfc. Emily Danial

Wilson Brewer, a technician at Vaden Nissan, provides his services for free on his day off April 27. The free oil changes were part of a fundraiser.

“A lot of people say how much they appreciate the military, but how many are actually jumping out and doing something?” she said. “We all realize sacrifices were made, not only by soldiers, but also by families as well.”

Waldron wanted to thank everyone involved for their support and enthusiasm.

“We’re all in this together,” she said.

Petersen agreed.

“It is about community,” she said. “Everybody was very appreciative, and most were very impressed.”

Plus, it was free!



Volunteers from the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment family readiness group display signs along Abercorn Street in Savannah promoting free oil changes to military families by Vaden Nissan on April 26 and 27.

REUNITING

from page 1B

Communication Class.

Children are unique individuals and are affected by deployment just like adults.

For younger children, routines change quickly. Have you made new rules for your children? Given them more responsibility?

Make sure you bring your partner up to speed on all the changes in your house. Children need time, just like adults. Encourage the deployed soldier to spend individual time with each child alone.

Sexuality versus Intimacy:

The term intimacy is the closeness and private sharing of feelings and emotions that you have with your partner.

Intimacy also includes that “history” that you and your partner have together, that verbal and non-verbal communication. Intimacy usually takes a little longer than sexuality to re-establish. Take your time, it will come.

Some additional thoughts on reunions: Our partner does not

have ESP. If you need something, tell them. They will listen if you speak in a non-threatening way. Everyone needs to be needed. Its an inherent human desire. Although you both have had to sacrifice (the deployed soldier and the stay at home spouse), you both have done a great job. Try to refrain from the “oneupman ship” and the “I had it harder than you.”

The stressors of reunion can be many.

Here are some tips to help you

adjust:

- Accept that things may be different.
- Talk about your experiences.
- Go slow. You cannot ride the train of life backwards, nor can you make up for lost time. Go forward.
- Spend time with your children.
- Accept that your partner has grown in many ways and may have changed.
- Intimate relationships may be awkward at first.
- Take time to get reacquainted.

- Forget your fantasies, reality is probably quite different.
- Take time to readjust to each other.
- Communicate, communicate and communicate.

If you find that you are having difficulties, seek assistance.

You chaplain, Army Community Service and the Winn Army Community Hospital all have programs and services that can help you though hard times.

Call ACS at 767-5058 or 767-5059 if you need assistance.

Brittin Elementary School Honor Roll for the 3rd Quarter

1st Grade O Honor Roll

Nick Barton
Austin Byers
Angel Crouch
Jasmine Crowder
Chelsea Hoyt
Joshua Krogmann
Alexys Rivera
Trinity White
Jessica Wilson

1st Grade O/G Honor Roll

Tariq Abdul-Rahmen Hill
Jacob Bradrick
Dolton Carson
Marissa Chapman
Ashley Cooper
Matthew Deegan

Keion Dodds
Leanna David
Rachael Dowd
James Easley
Destiny Hall
Raymond Hall
Macillister Hampton
Antonia Jones
David Kazloski-Gonzales
Joseph Kelly
Zoe Locey
Genesis Marciano
Kennedy Miles
Katelyn Millett
Kennedy Mullenix
Brittany Newton
Peter Oliver
Christopher Ripley
Antonio Royster
Daneea Serrant
Kaitalyn Sharp
David Stephens
Erick Vergara
Taraus Wilson
Brian Yetter
Blair Young

2nd Grade O Honor Roll

D a r i e n
Anthony
Nikolaus
Berry
K i r s h a n a
Calhoun
Z a c h a r y
Erwin
Deion Foster
Dan Huell
Tiana Ingram
Nicole Johnson

Lawrence Kemp
Perry McNeill
Cassandra Pelton
Jennifer Ramirez
Jessica Schrick
Emily Staffa
Xavier Thrasher
Terry Williams
Joi Wright

2nd Grade O/G Honor Roll

Leahi Akao
Jessica Agbay
Tyzhanay Anderson
Royneisha Andrews
Jennifer Bott
Chad Bradley
Starry Brown
Sharron Carter
Joshua Covington
Kaili Destazio
James Dowd
Larunda Easley
Ikara Gibson
James Goolsby
Shaquana Gray
Christopher Guilfo
Trevor Gullet
Daniel Hills
Kurtrell Jackson
Kevin Jones
Kathleen Klien
Cory Lazenby
Zuriel Locey
Justin Martin
Adam Martinez
Danard McLemore
Alinda Newby
Elika Sailiata
Gabriella Vasquez
Kelsie Williams
Quanesha Wimes
Khandi Wright

3rd Grade A Honor Roll

Kristin Crawley
Tyger Gray
Kala Hendrickson

Chelsea Rivera
Natavia Townsend

3rd Grade A/B Honor Roll

Matthew Angstrom
Kaci Bell
Janet Carrette
Myrisha Colston
Brittane Denson
Brittney Diggs
Kristopher Duncan
D’Andre Evans
La Donta Evans
Alexis Fisher
Aaron Gillen
Madeleine Guillerault
Christen Hall
Emily Heath
Aaron Jacobs
Dominique Kelly
Cornelius King
ALexis Kozlowski
Kristina Martin
DiTiarus Neal
Samantha Newby
Vanessa Newton
Thomas Rasor
Billy Rochier
Devonta Roofe
Nicole Roxburgh
Sarah Schmitz
Derrick Slaughter
Markus Smith
Tanisha Terrell
Ma’Tina Vereen
Zana Wilson

4th Grade A Honor Roll

Darian McNeill
Kyle Weaver

4th Grade A/B Honor Roll

Charquita Apparicio
Roysean Andrews
Kirstie Agbay
Taylor Barton
Paige Bradley

Kadeshia Brown
Andre Connor
Nichelle Fraiser
Thomas Freeman
Antegra Grady
Amber Grant
Brittney Guilfo
Jamal Harrison
Marcellus Howell
Jay Ingram
Quiera Jones
Kathleen Whitefield
Andrea Lowe
Ciana Laquesta
Kristie-Lynn McGathy
Jason Martin
Destani Nettles
Indigo Pullen
Anetone Sailiata
Michael Seamone
Elizabeth Styles
Christina Tuia
Shelby Walker
Margaret Whitfield
Dante Wright

5th Grade A/B Honor Roll

Joshua Evans
Amanda Gonzalez
Karl Hunter
Ashley Hughes
Xanadu Locey
Zachary Loper
Santana Postell
Adrienne Rasor
Nichole Ripley
Lara Riviere
Katie Robinson

5th Grade A/B Honor Roll

Cullie Alexander
Ashley Ballew
Nicholas Battyani
Alex Carpenter
Andre Cook
Tyler Erwin
Maria Galaviz
DeAnna Gatling

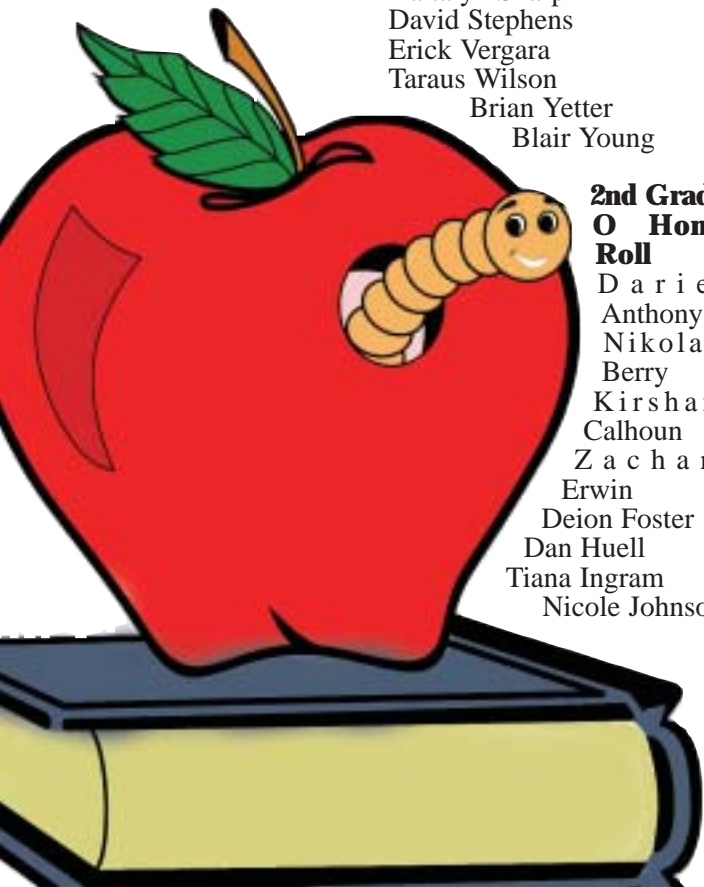
George Greig
Jamie Hays
Josie Height
Andre Ingram
Danielle Jacobs
Danielle Jones
Keyyanna Jones
Brittney Kempson
Alexandra Kimball
Tatiana Lambert
Sarah Lovelady
Kim McCaskill
Shakira McGregor
Malcom Mathis
Carnell Matthews
Kaila Moses
Alicia Perez
Alexis Pritchard
Crystal Pryear
Steven Stokes
Monica Vargus
Antonio Walton
Byron Weaver

6th Grade A Honor Roll

Keith Agbay
Laura Eschenbach
Joyce Meadows-Marquez
Demetrius Stinson

6th Grade A/B Honor Roll

Timothy Ashmen
Jerry Bidal
Latisha Colston
Jeremy Crawley
Robin Diggs
Laura Eschenbach
Della Ann Faircloth
Sonia Gonzalez
Emily Hardy
Kloe’ Hill
Zachary Kyser
Leonard Love
Lamar McLendon
Phillip Palomo
Jean Roman
Demetrius Stinson
Sherna Tolbert



CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Life’s Eternal Reward

Chaplain (Maj.) Tim Bonner
751st Maintenance Battalion

I have a little book in my library called The Words of Martin Luther King, Jr. It contains excerpts from some of his speeches. The last speech that the great civil rights advocate ever made was in Memphis, Tenn., April 3, 1968, the night before he was assassinated. Dr. King had a premonition that he was going to die soon.

In his speech "I've Been To The Mountain Top" he figuratively said that his eyes had seen the promised land and the glory of the coming of the Lord. In other words Dr. King knew that his life's work was complete. He had accomplished everything in life that God had called him to do. Can we say the same thing about our lives? If you knew that you were going to die tomorrow, would you be able to stand before God and say to Him "It is finished ... I have done all that you wanted me to do."

I know of two people in the Bible were able to say that. One was Jesus Christ.

As he hung on the cross of Calvary about to die He uttered the words "It is finished," signifying that He had completed God's earthly work for His life. He followed up the crucifixion with the resurrection, rising from the grave so that we might have a personal relationship with God.

Another person who was able to say at death that his life's work was completed was the Apostle Paul. When he was an old man he was sentenced to death for preaching the gospel. He sat in a Roman jail cell awaiting his execution; while he was there he had time to reflect on his life and say his final good-byes to his friends. One of the letters he wrote was to his young friend Timothy.

We have these words recorded for us in 2nd Timothy 4:7-8: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved



His appearing." Paul began with two athletic metaphors. First, he said that he had fought the good fight. In other words, he went in the boxing ring with the heavyweight champ and knocked him out. Next he said that he had finished the race. He was thinking of the marathon, the longest race in sports. He was telling Timothy that he had successfully completed his life in the same way that the marathon runner successfully finished the race. Finally he said that he had kept the faith. Paul started poorly — he persecuted Christians unto death. Paul finished well — he was the greatest missionary and church starter in history, and he wrote over half the New Testament. There was nothing more in life for him accomplish. He had done all that God wanted him to do.

Paul knew a reward in heaven awaited him because he had served God well. In Paul's day the victor in a race would receive a crown. He would go back to his hometown wearing the victor's crown, and the town would hold a parade in his honor, shouting out the winner's name for all to hear. Paul said that same kind of reception awaited him in Heaven. God would place a crown on his head, call out his name in honor, and commend him for being a good and faithful servant.

Wouldn't you like for God to give you the same kind of reception? The same reward is available to you. Paul said that everyone who is a follower of God and serves Him well would also receive the victor's crown. Sadly too many people live without a sense of purpose and waste their lives by not doing anything of eternal significance. If you haven't been serving God faithfully, rededicate your life to Him and ask Him what he wants you to do differently.

These verses motivate me more than any others in the Bible, because as a minister of the gospel I want my life to count for something. I want God to be able to say to me that I have lived and served Him well. I hope this challenge motivates you also. Have your eyes seen the Promised Land and the glory of the coming of the Lord?

Pet of the Week

Benny and Joon are 18 months old and completely domestic. Benny has been neutered and declawed. A loving owner is all they need.

If interested in adopting a cat or dog, call 767-4194 or stop by the clinic located at 461 W. Bultman Ave., Building 1180, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.

Worship Opportunities

Fort Stewart

<u>Catholic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday Mass	Victory	9 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Victory	7 p.m.
Weekday Mass	Victory	11:45 a.m.
<u>Protestant</u>		
Sunday “Protestant Worship”	Marne	11 a.m.
Sunday Gospel Service	Victory	11 a.m.
Sunday Family Friendly	Vale	11 a.m.
Tuesday Healing Service	WACH	11:30 a.m.
<u>American Samoan</u>		
Sunday Worship	Vale	1 p.m.
<u>Muslim</u>		
Friday Jum’ah	Bldg. 9182	1:15 p.m.
Masjid (Daily)	Bldg. 9182	5:30 a.m.
<u>Seventh Day Adventist</u>		
Saturday Sabbath School	Vale	9:15 a.m.
Saturday Divine Worship	Vale	11 a.m.
<u>Lutheran</u>		
Sunday Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
<u>Contemporary Service</u>		
Sunday Worship	Marne	6 p.m.

Hunter Army Airfield

<u>Protestant</u>		
Sunday Service	Post Chapel	11 a.m.

SPORTS & FITNESS

On Post

Basketball courts opened

The Hunter gym's basketball courts are newly renovated and now open.

Tae Kwon Do lessons

Tae Kwon Do is available for children and adults.

Classes are held 5 to 6 p.m. for children and 6 to 7 p.m. for teens and adults, Tuesday and Thursday at Fort Stewart Youth Services Center, Building 7338, Austin Road in Bryan Village next to the shoppette.

The cost is \$30 per month. For more information, call Child and Youth Services at 767-2312.

Marne tournaments

A 9-pin, no-tap tournament will be held the first Saturday of every month at Marne Lanes.

Sign up starts at 6:30 p.m. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person.

A scotch doubles tournament is held the third Saturday of every month at Marne Lanes. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. Cost is \$20 per couple. For more information, call 767-4866.

Newman offers training

The Newman Physical Fitness Center now offers personal-training consultations. Consultations consist of health screenings (body fat assessments), exercise prescription and nutritional counseling. Consultations are on appointment basis only.

Persons desiring this service may contact the Newman Physical Fitness Center at 767-3031.

Golf course

Taylor's Creek Golf Course offers Senior Blitz on Thursdays with a 9 a.m. tee off. They also offer a Dogfight Tournament at 7:30 a.m. and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Saturdays and Men's Blitz at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

• **Troops Tune Up**, a soldiers free clinic, is held every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **A Ladies Free Clinic** is held every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

• **A "Junior Golf Academy"** is scheduled be held during the summer.

Anyone who wants to schedule a fundraising event for Family Support Groups, Unit Activities or a private organization is asked to contact Charlie Dobberty at 767-2370.

Pool passes

Pool passes will be available May 23. Call Andy Arrington, DCAS Aquatic Director, at 767-3034 for more information.

Picnic areas

Picnic areas are available at Fort Stewart and Hunter. To reserve the picnic areas, call Outdoor Recreation Center at 767-8609.

The center also rents boats, trailers and kayaks, as well as small items such as cookers, pots and pans.

Therapeutic massage

Therapeutic massage is offered three times a week at Caro gym. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There is a deployment special for April and May, \$10 for 20 minute massage. To make an appointment, call 767-4763.

Off Post

Firecracker 5000

The Island Packet Firecracker 5000 Road Race and Fun Walk will be held 8 a.m. July 4 at the Mall at Shelter cove.

Runners from all over the United States participate in this Independence Day Event. It is the largest road race in Beaufort County and will be limited to the first 1,000 participants registered.

For more information or to register, contact Bear Foot Sports at (843)379-3440 or register online at www.bearfootsports.com.

If you're interested in having your sports articles, commentaries or briefs posted in The Frontline, call 767-3440, or fax at 767-5979. Deadline is noon on Fridays.



Sgt. Raymond Piper

Carolyn Carney, 15, spars with Jonathan Fennell, a first-degree black belt, during a practice.

Tae Kwon Do coach leads students to multiple medals

Sgt. Raymond Piper

Editor

With a clap of his hands that resounded through the gymnasium and a sharp command of form up, the students of Coach (master) Rafael Medina, the instructor for the Sport Tae Kwon Do Associates and fifth-degree black belt, quickly line up and prepare for the evening's lesson.

Tae Kwon Do is broken down into two sides; the traditional forms and the sport competition, said Medina.

"We focus more on the sports side, which involves good technique, forms, stamina, speed and endurance," Medina said.

The focus on competition led his students to win 11 gold, six silver and five bronze medals in the Georgia State Tae Kwon Do championships April 5 at Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Jonathan Fennell, 1st degree black belt, said he trained hard in the two months leading up to the event, and as a result of his hard work, he captured a gold medal in sparring.

"It was a good win. Last year, I took the silver medal so it feels good to be able to say this year I am the state champion," Fennell said.

The tournament was broken down into two areas, forms and sparring.

In the forms competition, the stu-

dents were evaluated on the different forms and stances and in sparring they squared off against an opponent.

Medina said he trains his students hard and pushes them to achieve 150 percent.

"I push them to their limit and push them a little further so they can break their limit," he said. "That way, when they go to a tournament, it makes it easier because they have trained hard."

The class isn't just about the competition. Many of the children in the class have a parent who is deployed or assigned to a hardship tour.

Assistant Coach Raquel Carney's husband is serving a one-year tour

in Korea. Both of her children, Carolyn, 15, and Mellus, 12, are enrolled in the class.

She said, "The class helps them to focus and release stress in a constructive way. It also helps them to build their physical fitness."

Fennell said, "The discipline aspects of the sport benefits the students. There seems to be a lot of respect in the sport, and it's something you can do after you graduate from school. It also can be a family sport and something you can do as you get older."

For Medina's students who will be competing in the national championships, June 30 to July 7, the training is hard, but it will pay off in the end as they go to compete.



T-ballers take first step to the majors



Photos by Pfc. Emily Daniel

(Left) The 7 and 8 year old coach pitch Golden Bears and Mets teams line up and shake hands after the game May 1.

(Above) Athletics first baseman Jimmy Milewski tags Diamondbacks' Bradley Delaney just a little too late May 1 during a 5 and 6 year old T-Ball game at Hunter Army Airfield

Marne Scoreboard

Softball

12 Under Midget Girls Softball CAA League
Friday, 6:30 p.m. — Tigers v. Poolers 2
Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. — Tigers @ Pooler 3
Home games will be played at Field 18

Youth Baseball

Youth Services T-Ball League
Friday, 6 p.m. — Braves v. Pirates
Friday, 7 p.m. — Rockies v. Rangers
Tuesday, 6 p.m. — Dodgers v. Braves
Tuesday, 7 p.m. — Marlins v. Rockies
Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Rangers v. Pirates

Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Rockies v. Dodgers
All games will be played at Bryan Village Field 24

7-8 Pee Wee League
Today, 6 p.m. — Expos v. Braves
Tuesday, 6 p.m. — Yankees v. Mets
All games will be played at Field 18

9-10 Mite League
Monday, 6 p.m. — Pirates v. Dodgers
Monday, 7 p.m. — Yankees v. Mariners
Wednesday, 6 p.m. — Yankees v. Dodgers
Wednesday, 7 p.m. — Mariners v. Pirates
All games will be played at Field 16

12 Under Midget Boys CAA League
Today, 6 p.m. — Diamondbacks v. Port Wentworth

Home games will be played at Field 24

Aerobics

Hunter Fitness Center
Aerobics schedule

Mondays — 6 to 7 p.m.
Cardio-Stepping
Cardio-Kicking
Buns/Thighs Weights
AB Work Stretch

Wednesday — 6 to 7 p.m.
Cardio-Stepping
Low Impact
Jump Rope

Weights
AB Work Stretch

Fridays — 6 to 7 p.m.
Fun Fridays
Party Dance
Yoga Stretches

Spring Schedule

Spring schedule for softball, racquetball and tennis
Call 767-8326 to sign up.
Softball League May 3-June 26
Softball Tournament July 7-10
Racquetball Tournament June 14 & 15
Tennis League June 9-26

Got Scores? Contact the *Frontline* staff at 767-3440 or e-mail Frontline@stewart.army.mil.

Volunteer Spotlight



WOODRUFF THEATER

May 8 — May 14



Admission for all shows is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children.

Dreamcatcher (R)

Starring: Donnie Walberg, Jason Lee
Tonight at 7 p.m.

Four young friends perform a heroic act, and in the process are transformed forever by receiving special powers. Years later, the four reunite for a hunting trip and is soon interrupted and the friends must band together to battle a mysterious alien force as the future of the earth hangs in the balance.
Run time: 145 minutes

Gangs of New York (R)

Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Day-Lewis
Free Showing Friday, Sunday and Monday at 7 p.m.
New York City, 1863, the desire for a better life raged in crime-ridden streets. The Nation’s survival being tested by the Civil War, and the underworld was born in the streets. A son searches for honor, vengeance, and the courage to remake his life.
Run time: 166 minutes

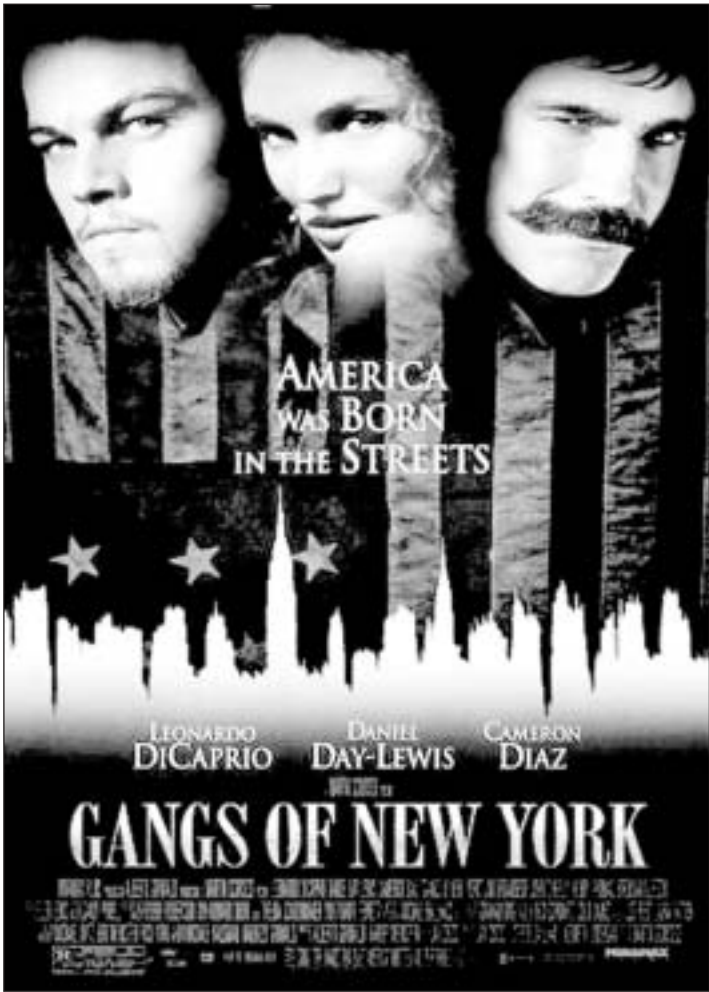
Piglet’s Big Movie (G)

Animated
Free Showing Saturday at 4 and 7 p.m.
When Piglet disappears, the others use a scrapbook as a map to find him and discover that he is a hero in a lot of ways.
Run time: 75 minutes

The Core (PG-13)

Starring: Aaron Eckhart, Hilary Swank
Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Unknown force is preventing the earth’s rotation and deteriorating its magnetic field. The world’s most gifted scientists travel into the earth’s core to detonate a device that will reactivate the core.
Run Time: 137 minutes

Free Showing
Friday — Gangs of New York
Saturday — Piglet’s Big Movie



Venus Acker

Venus Mintoria Acker, a native of Greenville, S.C., is a Red Cross volunteer at Winn Army Community Hospital.

She volunteers in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. “I volunteer because I get great inner peace in knowing that I have given all that I have to help brighten someone’s day,” Acker said.

Her hobbies include cooking, reading and shopping. Acker and her husband Romeo have two children, 12-year-old Romeo II and 4-year-old Tiffany.

If you would like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 370-6903 or send an email to **Brigitte.Roberts@se.amedd.army.mil**.



Birth announcements

April 17
Brett Anthony Ford, a boy, 6 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Ray Ford and Lori Sue Ford.
AnDante Adrien Tellier, a boy, 7 pounds, 3 ounces, born to Sgt. Neil L. Tellier and Cpl. Lisa D. Tellier.

April 18
Kaden Andronicus Williams, a boy, 9 pounds, 5 ounces, Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Williams and Staff Sgt. Kaye Williams.
Logan Anthony Benoit, a boy, 7 pounds, 7 ounces, Spc. Luke Patrick Beniot and Spc. Kristine Marie Benoit.

April 21
Jaeah Yvani Jackson, a girl, 8 pounds, 14 ounces, born to

Michael Jackson and Pfc. Yosha Jackson.
Maxim Gregory Pietsch, a boy, 9 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Capt. Kirk Pietsch and Tatiana Pietsch.21 April 2003
Rachel Nicole Glover, a girl, 6 pounds, 12 ounces, born to Staff Sgt. Achor Ian Glover and Olympia Shawnte Glove

April 22
Aubriawna Trenea Franklin, a girl, 6 pounds, 14 ounces, born to Sgt. Joseph Lee Franklin and Amanda Dawn Franklin.
Issac Ray James, a boy, 7 pounds, 7 ounces, born to 2nd Lt. Eric James and 1st Lt. Katrina James.

April 24
Micheal Cole Davis, a boy, 7 pounds, 4 ounces, born to

Spc. Ryan J. Davis and Carmen M. Davis.

April 25
Joshua Demetrius Crooks Jr., a boy, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, born to Joshua Demetrius Crooks and Lakeshia Kiyana Dixon (Dependent daughter of SSG Curtis Dixon).
Saenia Renee Maya Hale, a girl, 9 pounds, 2 ounces, born to Spc. Wayne A. Hale Jr., and Sherita Hale.
Olivia Rose Smith, a girl, 7 pounds, 2 ounces, born to Capt. Michael Sean Smith and Kelly Smith.

April 26
Alexander James Thomason, a boy, 8 pounds, 6 ounces, born to Sgt. Brandon Thomason and Amelia Thomason.